

PHARMACY BOARD[657]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 147.76 and 272C.3, the Board of Pharmacy hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 2, “Pharmacist Licenses,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendments were approved at the April 26, 2011, regular meeting of the Board of Pharmacy.

The proposed amendments require that a pharmacist complete no less than two continuing education units (CEUs) in activities dealing with patient or medication safety and that a pharmacist complete no less than two CEUs in activities dealing with pharmacy law. The pharmacy law credits shall be obtained through Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited provider activities; the patient or medication safety credits may be obtained through ACPE-accredited provider activities or through non-ACPE provider activities if those activities are provided by an accredited health-professional continuing education provider, such as a continuing medical education (CME) provider, and if the activity content directly relates to the pharmacist’s professional practice. The rules continue to require that a pharmacist complete at least 50 percent of the total required continuing education credits, or 1.5 CEUs, in ACPE-accredited provider activities dealing with drug therapy.

Requests for waiver or variance of the discretionary provisions of Board rules will be considered pursuant to 657—Chapter 34.

Any interested person may present written comments, data, views, and arguments on the proposed amendments not later than 4:30 p.m. on July 15, 2011. Such written materials may be sent to Terry Witkowski, Executive Officer, Board of Pharmacy, 400 S.W. Eighth Street, Suite E, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4688; or by E-mail to terry.witkowski@iowa.gov.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.10, 155A.11, and 272C.2.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 2.12(1) as follows:

2.12(1) Continuing education activity attendance. Continuing education activities that carry the seal of an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited provider will automatically qualify for continuing education credit. Attendance is mandated in order for a pharmacist to receive credit unless the activity is an ACPE-accredited correspondence course.

a. Non-ACPE provider activity. A maximum of ~~50 percent~~ 1.3 CEUs (13 contact hours) of the total 3.0 CEUs of continuing education credits required pursuant to subrule 2.12(4) may be obtained through completion of non-ACPE provider activities if such activities are provided by an accredited health-professional continuing education provider, such as a continuing medical education (CME) provider, and if the activity content directly relates to the pharmacist’s professional practice. The pharmacist is responsible for ensuring that the activity content directly relates to the pharmacist’s professional practice. In addition, if one or more non-ACPE provider activities are intended to fulfill the requirement in paragraph 2.12(4) “c,” the pharmacist is responsible for ensuring the activity content relates to patient or medication safety.

b. Exemption for health-related graduate studies. A pharmacist who is continuing formal education in health-related graduate programs, including participation in a pharmacy residency program, may be exempted from meeting the continuing education requirements during the period of such enrollment or participation. An applicant for this exemption shall petition the board, as soon as possible following enrollment in the qualifying graduate program or commencement of the pharmacy residency

program and prior to completion of the qualifying program, on forms provided by the board office. At the discretion of the board, exemption during part-time or short-term enrollment in a health-related graduate program may be prorated for the actual period of such enrollment.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 2.12(4) as follows:

2.12(4) *Continuing education activity topics.* Each pharmacist is required to obtain continuing education by completing activities in the topics specified in this subrule.

a. *Drug therapy.* A minimum of ~~50 percent~~ 1.5 CEUs (15 contact hours) of the pharmacist's required 3.0 CEUs shall be in ACPE-accredited ~~courses~~ activities dealing with drug therapy. Activities qualifying for the drug therapy requirement will include the ACPE topic designator "01" or "02" in the last two digits of the universal activity number.

b. *Pharmacy law.* A minimum of 0.2 CEUs (2 contact hours) of the pharmacist's required 3.0 CEUs shall be in ACPE-accredited activities dealing with pharmacy law. Activities qualifying for the pharmacy law requirement will include the ACPE topic designator "03" in the last two digits of the universal activity number.

c. *Patient or medication safety.* A minimum of 0.2 CEUs (2 contact hours) of the pharmacist's required 3.0 CEUs shall be in activities dealing with patient or medication safety. Activities completed to fulfill this requirement may be ACPE-accredited activities, in which case the last two digits of the universal activity number will include the ACPE topic designator "05," or non-ACPE provider activities as provided in subrule 2.12(1).